

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Fig. 3 and replaces the original sheet with Fig. 3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim original 3, claim 2 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of original claims 1 and 5, claim 3 is amended to incorporate subject matter from original claim 2, claims 3, 4, 6 and 8 are amended to change their dependency, and claim 5 is canceled. Thus, no new matter is added by this Amendment.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on February 24, 2006. Applicant requests that the Examiner acknowledge having considered the references cited therein.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 5-9, 11 and 13 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To this end, claim 2 is amended to incorporate the features of original claims 1 and 5. Accordingly, claim 2, as well as the claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance.

III. Specification

The title is objected to as not being descriptive. The title is herein amended as suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of this objection is requested.

IV. Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(4). Fig. 3 is herein amended as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, withdrawal of this objection is requested.

V. Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1, 3 and 4 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 2 and 5 of copending U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0229407 (Owa); claims 1, 3 and 4 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,898,120 (Natori); and claim 1 is provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 10 of copending U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0228181 (Maemura). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant attaches hereto a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate these provisional rejections.

These are the only rejections of claims 3 and 4. Accordingly, because these rejections are overcome, claims 3 and 4 are allowable.

Withdrawal of the double patenting rejections is requested.

VI. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a)

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,759,290 (Ogura); and claims 1, 2, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,069,824 (Kojima) in view of Ogura. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3. As discussed above, claim 3 contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 1, as well as the claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance and these rejections are moot.

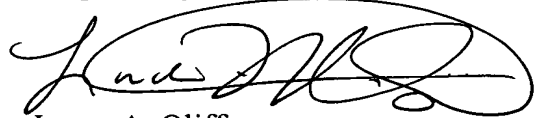
Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-13 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:LMS/eks

Attachments:

Replacement Drawing Sheet
Terminal Disclaimer

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